

The LONDON JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, January 21. 1738.

NUMB. 966.

THE following LETTER, from a Gentleman in London, in answer to one from his Friend in the Country, having been communicated to me, and containing some Observations not unworthy of the Publick, I take the Liberty of inserting the same.

To RALPH FREEMAN, Esq;

THE great Esteem I have always had for you, from the time I was admitted into the Number of your Friends, is a sufficient Reason to assure you I was surpriz'd and concerned at the reading of your last Letter; you give Credit and believe too much the Weekly Papers that are published and dispersed through the Nation, to corrupt the Principles and Loyalty of the People to their King. You have been grossly imposed upon, by those that informed you the Letters in the *Craftsman* and *Common Sense* are wrote by Persons of Quality, and Gentlemen of distinguished Rank: A higher Injury cannot be done to Men of Honour, than to account them the Writers of low Scandal, infamous Lyes, Perversion, and false Application of History, open Affronts to his Majesty's Ministers of State, unnatural Constructions and Inferences from modern Occurrences, monstrous Comparisons, &c. with such Trash and Villainy those Papers are generally made up. For my own part, I believe the said Letters have been wrote by Popish Priests, Jacobites, Lawyers without Practice, unesteemed Poets, and Persons disappointed in obtaining Employments; whose Aims and Ends are to destroy the Established Religion and Civil Liberties of the Good People in Great Britain.

You say, Sir R. W. — hath abundance of Enemies: It hath been very rarely, if ever known, that a Man possessed of the high Station he is in, without having Enemies in abundance. I think nevertheless, it may be said very truly, That his Friends are more numerous than his Adversaries, enjoy larger Fortunes, have more Influence, and greater Interest in the Nation. It is well known that the Disaffected to the King, and Protestant Religion, are Sir R.'s inveterate Enemies; which confirms my Belief that he is most faithfully attached to his Majesty's Service, and the Interest of his Country.

I do not remember, in the last two Years, to have heard any more than Five Persons spoke against that are in Offices of Note; which induces me to think that the Men in Power act with great Wisdom and Integrity, and that they have more Regard for the King's Honour, and to the Good of their Country, than to their own Profit or Advantage of their Families: If you consider how few of the Nobles and Gentlemen who possess the chief Places in the Administration are rich in Money, you will have Reason to praise their Honesty, or admire their Disinterestedness.

You imagine the Number of Forces now maintained in this Kingdom too great in time of Peace, &c. Whereas in truth we have not a Fourth Part in Proportion to the Extent and Riches of our Country, as what are kept up by other Powers in Europe. The Establishment is but from Year to Year, the Pay all spent at Home: By them we are preserved from Foreign and Domestick Enemies; the Men are under such an excellent Regulation, and strict Discipline, that very seldom any of them commit Crimes, or are guilty of Disorders. Our little Army can never prove prejudicial to the Nation, whilst the Officers continue to be of

the best Families, (as now they are) and the common Soldiers Protestants.

You suppose there are at this time too many Employments, that some of them should be struck off the Establishment, to save the Nation unnecessary Expences. This is a Matter of too great Consequence for me to give an Opinion upon. But, if the Truth could be known, we should find that the Minister's bitterest Opponents are so, because he has not Places to give them, suitable to what they suppose due to their Merit. The Want of Preference was the true Cause that first made many Gentlemen declare themselves his Enemies. If he has done any thing amiss, why do not those that know it publish the same under their real Names? Are unknown Men to be credited, that write the most malicious and scandalous Invectives and Scurrilities, some to serve the Pope, and his Pensioner the Pretender, others to gratify their Spleen, and to be revenged for Disappointments? Whatever tends to the Reaproach, even of a private Man, should be well proved, before it obtains Credit; if so, how much more ought we to reject and despise the various *Weekly Calumnies* published against the Ministry without Proofs?

You complain that Lands in your Neighbourhood fall in Value, and the Rents are not well paid. Certain it is, that Meadow and Pasture Lands will not let for so much as they did in Times past; because prodigious large Tracts of hitherto barren Grounds, in late Years have been broke up and improved in such manner that by proper Methods of Husbandry their Values are greatly advanced, and those Lands produce vast Quantities of Corn; and, by Turnips and artificial Grass, fatten Multitudes of Cattle and Sheep. Much Tillage Common Field Land has been enclosed and laid down in Pasture, to the great Benefit of the Owners; insomuch that it is allowed England doth at this Time produce a Third more of Wool than it did forty Years past, which is the true Reason that the Price thereof is so much fallen. But what is this to the Ministry? They cannot hinder Men that have poor Grounds from improving them; neither are they impowered to set a Price upon Corn, Flesh, Wool, or other Commodities this Kingdom yields; the Markets are free, and open to all Men.

You lament the Loss of our Trade to Turkey, and other Countries. I think there is Reason to believe the Trade of this Nation is as great, and upon as good a Footing, as it ever was: The Turkey Trade suffered some Diminution during the War the Turks carried on against the Persians; but since the Re-establishment of Peace between those Powers, is again become as considerable as before that War. By the last Treaty of Commerce with Russia, our Trade is much increased in that Empire, and our Nation become the most esteemed and favoured; which we ought gratefully to acknowledge was effected by his Majesty's Wisdom and Goodness, and the Diligence and Care of the Ministry. The Countries that border upon the Baltic do not take off so many of our Cloths now as formerly, because the Kings of Denmark, Sweden, and Prussia, have set up Woolen Manufactures in their respective Dominions. The People of Condition in Switzerland, and other Alpine Regions, generally wear English Cloth, which, it is hoped, makes up the Deficiency in our Exports of those Goods to the Baltic.

I have not heard our Trade lessens in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany, or Africa; therefore conclude it is as considerable at this time, as ever, or rather has increased in these Countries, which is most probable.

THE British Plantations in America purchase great Quantities of all the Sorts of Goods manufactured and made in this Kingdom; and, as the Inhabitants there increase yearly, the Demands for English Commodities will increase in proportion.

SOME Sorts of Woolen Goods do not sell so well as formerly, viz. Bays, Says, Durcys, West-Country White and Mixed Serges, &c. The Reason is, that new Kinds of Serges, Druggets, Baragons, Stuffs, of Wool, Cotton, and mixed Materials, have been so well made, that most People use them. Broad Cloths, and other substantial Woolen Goods, bear as good Prices as formerly, though much greater Quantities are now wrought and vendied.

THE Silk Manufacture is brought to such Perfection in London, that it equals, if not excels, that of France.

IN England is made as good Sail-Cloth as any in the World.

The Paper-makers were so much favoured and encouraged in the last Session of Parliament, that it is hoped in a very few Years sufficient Quantities of Paper will be made to supply this Nation, and the Colonies thereto belonging.

THE Arts of Cutting and Setting Diamonds, &c. working in Copper, Brass, Iron, Steel, Compound Metals, Glass, Shells, and Pebbles, are so well improved, that the several Species of Goods made of the aforesaid Materials and exported, bring in more Profit to this Nation, than the Woolen Manufactures, including all its Branches.

TRADE doth not decrease in England, but Traders increase faster than the Trade: It is supposed there are at this time seven times as many Merchants in and about London, as were at the Peace of Utrecht, and double the Number of Shop-Keepers. Therefore it is not to be wondered at, that Merchants and Shop-Keepers do not gain Money so fast as formerly. The Wages of Journeymen in most Trades and Callings are considerably advanced; Servants, and even Labourers Hire, is risen all over England; the Middling and Lower Sort of People go better clothed than in Times past.

IN the Reign of King Charles II. it was computed that the Dutch were Owners of as much Shipping as all the other Nations in Europe put together. At this Day it is affirmed by Men of Knowledge, that the Subjects of Great Britain have eight times as many Ships as the Dutch: It is also affirmed that the Number of Ships and other Vessels belonging to the King's Subjects are at this time double in Quantity to what they were at the aforesaid Peace. This shews a gradual Increase of Trade and Shipping.

THERE are several Causes to be assigned why the Busines of our Merchants may be lessened, and yet neither the Nation nor its Trade suffer Loss; some of them I will enumerate:

THE most valuable Silks, Ribbands, &c. worn in England before the Revolution, were imported from Foreign Countries; very small Parcels of these Commodities are now brought hither; we make enough to serve ourselves, and some to send Abroad.

THE Linnens and Thread made in North Britain and Ireland, which are used in England and the Plantations, with the Sail-Cloth, &c. amount to a considerable Sum: And great part of the Thread-lace worn of late, is made in the Midland Counties, and West of England; Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, and Rice, from Carolina. Costly Toys were wont to be brought hither from France and Holland, with which

[Price Two-Pence.]



we are now so well supplied by our own Artists, as to have no Occasion for such Things from Abroad. I could name several other Articles, but omit them, because they will occur to your Memory. The English do not at this time import in Value of Foreign Commodities so much as they did before the Revolution, by some Millions yearly.

You say that it is commonly reported there are Ten thousand Houses untenanted within the Bills of Mortality, and that House-Rents are much fallen. For my own part, I do not believe there are One Thousand empty Houses in London, &c. In some Parts the Rents fall, and rise in others; which is usual in all great Cities. I will give you three Reasons to prove that London, and the Places included under that Denomination, prosper. First, great Numbers of Houses are every Year built upon new Foundations: The Second, That whatever old Houses are pulled down, much better are erected in their Places: The third, That Twenty Years past the Coals brought into the River Thames did not exceed 300000 Chal-drons yearly; but now they amount to above 600000. Abundance of Towns in different Parts of England have been enlarged also, since his Majesty came to the Crown.

I am as much affected and grieved as yourself, that so many Gentlemen, descended from ancient Families, have run out their Estates. If by Building, making Gardens, buying costly Furniture, Elections, Play, too expensive Living, or any other Causes, Gentlemen ruin their Fortunes; who can help it? The Ministers of State are no way answerable for the Follies or Faults of Private Persons. This is a Country of Liberty; every one may do what he pleases with his own.

No Man has a greater Regard and Respect for several Persons of Distinction that oppose the Ministry, than myself; notwithstanding I am convinced the Nation is much prejudiced by such Opposition: Therefore sincerely wish and desire that the Contests for the future may be, who shall honour the King, and promote the Welfare of his Fellow-Subjects. Then we should be the happiest People, and Great Britain as powerful as any Empire in the World.

Lethbury,
Jan. 4. 1737-8.

P. B.

EPIGRAM.

If Papers, Poems, Pamphlets, be believ'd,
How are our hapless Countrymen deceiv'd!
How forc'd the heavy Load of Law to bear!
Tho' prone to Action, how restrain'd from War!
If all that Patriots say be held for Truth,
How wise their SAGES, and how bright their Youth!

Wou'd Britain listen to their Councils more,
Soon she'd outshine whate'er she was before!
Thus COMMON SENSE* — her Tale how

and weak!
Want makes them write, Ambition bids them speak.
Hence, in the midst of Peace, such high Debate;
Hence Faction murmurs at the truly GREAT;
Hence are we blind to Blessings we possess,
And hence so mad to wish those BLESSINGS left.

* See the Epigram in Bartholomew-Close Common Sense, Jan. 14. 1738.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

LETTERS from Constantinople mention the Execution of the Currzchy Bachi, who was accused of having had great Intimacy with the Kiaga of the Grand Vizier that was beheaded in the Army, at the Time of the Prime Minister's being deposed. This Currzchy Bachi was possid of an immense Estate, which is confiscated to the Use of the Grand Signior. Prince Ragotski still continues at Constantinople, where he has great Honour paid to him, and a Guard of Janissaries is posted before the Gate of the Palace where he lodges.

Letters from Turkey, by the Way of Warsaw, say, that the Plague is broke out at Bender, and commits great Havock there.

They write from Vienna, that its Archbishop the Cardinal de Collonitz has presented a Memorial to the Emperor, with a Scheme for preventing the Increase of the Protestant Religion in the Hereditary Dominions of the House of Austria.

The Secrecy with which the Marriage of the King of the Two Sicilies with the Princess Royal of Poland, has been negotiated so as not to be discovered by the great Number of Ministers of several Courts, who were Spies upon every Step taken by the Count de Fuenclara, seem'd to give a Sanction to the Suspicions, that the King and Queen of Spain chose to conceal it from political Views of the same sublime and extensive Nature as all those of the Court of Madrid have been, or seem'd to be, for more than 20 Years past. In the mean Time, whether the Aim of that Court was to confound the Politicians, or whether after all there was no Mystery in the Matter, the thing that first gave Occasion to this great and unexpected Marriage, is said to be this.

The Queen of Spain having sent for the Pictures of four Princesses, qualify'd both by their Age and Birth to marry the King her Son, she sent to a Minister at the Court of Naples, with Orders to put them up in Don Carlos's Closet when he was out of the Way. This being done accordingly, when his Sicilian Majesty was hunting at Capo di Monte, when he returned and went into his Closet, he there found the four Pictures, and view'd them with very great Attention. The Minister whom the Queen of Spain had trusted with the Secret, took Care to be present at the same time, and ask'd the King, To which of the four Pictures he gave the Preference? The young Monarch, who had never seen either of the Princesses that they represented, pointed to that of the Princess Royal of Poland, adding, that were he to take his Choice, that shoul'd be a Wife for him. Upon this the Minister told him, that if he turn'd to the Backside of the Picture, his Majesty would there see the Princess's Name; the King was eager to turn it, and seeing that 'twas Princess Mary Amelia of Saxony, he said, She shall be my Queen, and I will instantly write my Mind to the King my Father, and the Queen my Mother.

Letters from Leghorn say, the News of one of Baron Theodore's Secretaries being executed at Bastia by Order of the Genoese Commisary General, has put several Families of that State who have Children or Relations upon the Island of Corsica in the Genoese Service into a very great Consternation, because they have heard that the Malecontents are so exasperated at this Execution, that they have threatened to use Reprisals, and to put every Genoese they can light upon to Death: And they have accordingly received Advice, that the very Night after the Execution of that unfortunate Secretary, the Malecontents took a Vessel which was sent from Bastia to surprise their Tower at Campoloro. A Serjeant, 10 Grenadiers, and 11 Seamen, landing for that Purpose, fell into an Ambuscade of the Malecontents who took them, and every Man of 'em was next Morning found hanging in the Sight of Bastia; which Execution was the more terrifying to the Town's People, because they heard the very Centres of the Malecontents call out to them, that this Execution was by way of Reprisal for the Execution of one of their King's Secretaries; and that their Generals were resolved to hang and burn all the Prisoners that are or shall hereafter fall into their Hands.

By Letters from Italy, we are informed, That the Grand Duke of Tuscany is advised to hasten his Departure for his Italian Dominions, in order to prevent the fatal Consequences that the Alterations may occasion which have been made in the Government of Tuscany, the People of that Country threatening to commit Disorders in Case they do not soon see their Sovereign. As this Dukedom was mighty ill governed in the preceeding Reign, the Prince of Craon has made very considerable Changes, which though

they really tend to the Reformation of the State, yet as they affect many particular Persons, occasion great Clamours against this Prince's Administration, it having been insinuated that he has transacted these Thigs without any special Direction, but from mere Caprice, and that the new Grand Duke would disapprove of at least a great Part of these Transactions. What confirms the People still more in this false Idea, is the Mistrust which subsists between the Prince of Craon and the Electress Dowager Palatine.

Letters from Lisbon mention a remarkable Robbery committed lately at the Palace of the King of Portugal's Brother Don Francis. As that Prince was hunting some Weeks ago at Semora, some Robbers found Means during his Absence, to get into his Palace, and stole away all his Jewels out of his Closet viz. a Button for his Hat, and a Clasp adorn'd with 48 small Rose Diamonds, and 11 larger ones; a String to put round his Hat, consisting of 370 Diamonds, some cut after the Manner of Roles, and others flat; 2 Buttons for the Neck, consisting each of a Brilliant; a Sword Hilt garnished with 200 Diamonds; a Hanger with a Handle of Agat, adorned with 270 Diamonds and 59 Rubies; besides 50 Diamonds and 3 Rubies which garnish the Bow of it; and 73 Buttons for a Coat, each of which consisted of 31 small Rose Diamonds: At the same time there were stolen 14 Rose Diamonds that were not set; a Topaz incloed in Gold, a Vessel of Rock Crystal adorn'd with Silver, and a Gold Medal embl'd, representing St. Ingracia.

They write from Paris, That M. Dubois, the famous Surgeon and Oculist who some time ago went down into the subterraneous Places at Montmartre gives out, that he has discover'd a considerable Treasure there. He says, that those Cells are very well arch'd, and that they lead by several Passages to the Church in the Street of St. Dennis; that he saw several Figures of Brass, an Altar which he supposed to be erected to the God Mars, and several Iron Chests, which he pretends are full. He also found a great Number of dead Bodies, and Heaps of Goods, which, upon the very Touch, crumbled to Dust. He adds, that at the Bottom of those Caves he saw several frightful Animals, which however did him no Harm. He was 7 Hours in rambling about the Place, and suffer'd very much by the Damps. He saw Iron Gates at some of the Caves, and others had no Way into them but a Hole at the Top, of a Foot square. He has made a ad Search, and found 3 Copper Medals, one of which being about the Size of a Crown Piece, represents Augustus Caesar on one Side, and the Goddess Iris on the other.

By private Letters from Holland we learn, that neither of the French Ministers at Copenhagen and Stockholm have been able to succeed in their Negotiations, to engage those Courts to enter into the Treaty proposed by that of France, but that on the contrary, the Danish Court has accepted of the Proposals made by that of Great Britain, and consents to furnish 1000 Men whensoever thereto required. It is thought that the Court of Sweden will soon follow the same Example. The British Court has represented in the strongest Terms, how much the Balance of Power and the Protestant Interest may be endangered, by too strict an Union between the Houses of Austria and Bourbon, if ever the Cardinal should be succeeded by a Minister less pacific and more avaritious. The Courts aforesaid appeared so well convinced of the Force of these Reasons, as leaves no room to doubt of a grand Protestant Alliance being formed, as has been already mentioned.

LONDON.
At the Court at St. James's the Twelfth Day of January, 1737.

PRESIDENT,
The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

His Majesty having been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. Lewis Earl of Rockingham to be Lord Lieutenant of the County of Kent, and City of Canterbury and County of the same; his

Lopship

Lordship this Day took the Oaths appointed to be taken thereupon, instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy.

The following Gentlemen are nominated for Sheriffs of the several Counties of Wales.

SOUTH WALES.

Brecon, Charles Powell, of Brecon, Esq.; Carmarthenshire, James Lewis, of Lanboody, Esq.; Cardiganshire, Francis Ingram, of Llaullery, Esq.; Glamorganshire, Edmond Lloyd, of Cardiff, Esq.; Pembrokeshire, George Harris, of Tregwint, Esq.; Radnorshire, Thomas Jones, of Cwmtowyddwr, Esq.

NORTH WALES.

Anglesea, William Robinson of Monachut, Esq.; Carnarvonshire, Humphry Meredith, of Pengwern, Esq.; Denbighshire, John Jones, of Squinant, Esq.; Flintshire, Edward Morgan, of Golden Grove, Esq.; Merionethshire, John Lloyd of Vachdeiliog, Esq.; Montgomeryshire, Morgan Edwards, of Mellyn-y-greg, Esq.

On Wednesday thirteen of the Malefactors mentioned in our last, (his Majesty having been pleased to reprieve Abraham Davenport for Transportation for 14 Years) were executed at Tyburn. Thomas Carr, the Attorney, and Elizabeth Adams, went from Newgate to the Place of Execution in two Mourning Coaches, each attended by a Clergyman. They both denied the Fact for which they suffered, and several written Papers were delivered by Carr just before he was turn'd off.

On Friday last Week the Sessions began at the Old Baily, when 30 Prisoners were tried, 3 whereof were capitally convicted, viz. Robert Brownjohn, for sending a Threatening Letter to Mr. John Bell in Lombard-street; James Cope, for stealing a Drawer with Plate and other Things, to the Value of 20 l. and Thomas Jenkins, for privately Stealing a Silver Watch from Mr. Monday. 24 were cast for Transportation, and 3 Acquitted.

On Saturday last 22 Prisoners were tried at the Old Baily, one whereof was capitally convicted, viz. George Price, for the Murder of his Wife, on Hounslow Heath; Garratt Ural was tried for the Murder of his Wife, and found Guilty of Manslaughter. Fifteen were cast for Transportation, and 5 Acquitted.

On Monday the Sessions ended, when 16 Prisoners were tryed, 8 whereof were capitally Convicted, viz. John Margets and William Field, for robbing Isabella Cotes on the Highway; John Burt, for robbing Mr. John Berry near Islington; Thomas Oliver and John Parrot, for robbing Mathias Holt on the Highway near Holloway, of a Watch and a Pair of silver Buckles; John Waterman, for robbing Thomas Wheeler near Islington, of a silver Watch; John Gardiner and Isaac Mottershed, for breaking open a Box belonging to a Society at the White Lyon in Gracechurch street, and stealing thereout a Bond of 100 l. 5 were cast for Transportation, and 3 Acquitted.

At the Sessions held at Hicks-Hall, on Thursday last Week came one the Trial of one Kennedy, for an Assault with an Intent of committing a Rape on the Body of Mrs. Wood, on the 26th of July last, in a Boat on the River Thames, in Conjunction with one Taylor who made his Escape, both Watermen; and after hearing Evidence and Council pro and con, the Jury found him guilty of the Assault, but acquitted him of the Rape. It's observable, that Mrs. Wood was so terribly affrighted with the Assault, that she has been subject to Convulsion-Fits ever since; and the Time of the Trial she was seized with one, on which she was obliged to be carried out of Court. The Court fined him 6s. 8d. and to pay 1l. 10s. to the Prosecutor; and for the Indulgence he received, he is to use his utmost Endeavours to take Taylor, in order to bring him to Justice, the said Taylor being the greatest Aggressor.

On Thursday last the Royal African Company chose his Majesty their Governor, Sir Bibey Lake, Bart. Sub-Governor, and Charles Hayes, Esq; Deputy Governor. They have also reelected

22 of their former Directors, and instead of Robert Atkins, jun. who resigned, and Thomas Bird Esq; deceased, they have chosen Honora Smith, Esq; and Mr. Thompson Hayne.

On Saturday Morning between One and Two o'Clock, a Fire broke out in the Kitchen of the Dwelling House of John Basker, Esq; his Majesty's Printer, in Black-Fryars, which for want of Water caught hold of the Printing-House, and in a short Time consumed that and the Dwelling-House; the Fire burnt so violent, that nothing could be saved; Mr. Basker and his Family narrowly escaped the Flames. It was discovered by one of the Apprentices who lay in a little Room by the Kitchen. The Damage done is very great.

On Monday about three in the Afternoon, a Fire broke out in one of the Offices of Bedford-House, Bloomsbury; but by the timely Assistance of the neighbouring Engines it was soon extinguished, and very little Damage done. Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Bedford arrived from the Country with their Retinue, in the Midst of the Confusion.

On Thursday Night last Week an ancient Woman was burnt to Death in Cradle Court, Aldersgate-street, by Means of a Coal that fell from the Grate upon her Cloaths, which taking Fire burnt her to miserably on one Side, that she expired in two Hours. She was a helpless Person, and the Nurse that attended her was absent on an Errand, and returned just time enough to see, but not prevent, this dismal Catastrophe.

A threatening Letter having been sent on Sunday the 1st Instant, to the Wife of Thomas Kemble, of Tewkesbury, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Gloucester, ordering her to lay Money in a certain Place, or else her House should be burnt, and she and her Husband murdered: His Majesty, for the better discovering and bringing to Justice the Persons concerned in writing and lending the said Letter, has been pleased to promise his most gracious Pardon to any one of them, who shall discover his Accomplices, so as he, she, or they, may be apprehended and convicted thereof. And as a further Encouragement, the Lord Viscount Gage hath promised a Reward of 50 l. to any Person making such Discovery.

Charles Kilpis, of Hardinstone in the County of Northampton, having represented to the King, that on Saturday the 1st of December last, he, on his Return from Northampton to Hardinstone, the Place of his Abode, between the Hours of Seven and Eight at Night, was set upon, assaulted and robbed by several Persons who were unknown to him, some of whom, by the Advantage of the Night, came behind him and at the very first Blow struck him to the Ground, and by repeated Blows cut him in so dangerous a Manner, that, together with the great Effusion of Blood that issued from the Wounds, he was in the Opinion of the Surgeons who attended and dress'd his Wounds, in the utmost Danger of his Life, has lost the entire Use and Faculty of all his Senses; his Majesty, for the better discovering and bringing to Justice the Perpetrators of so horrid a Fact, has been pleased to promise his most gracious Pardon to any one of them who shall discover his Accomplices or Accomplices, so as they or any of them may be apprehended and convicted thereof; and, as a further Encouragement, Bartholomew Clarke, Esq; Merchant, of Garlick-Hill, London, has promised a Reward of Fifty Pounds to any Person or Persons making such Discovery as aforesaid, to be paid upon the Conviction of the Offender or Offenders.

The whimsical Society of Free Masons, having been often the Subject of Discourse in England, and of late in Holland, France, and other States, where they have been discouraged by the Civil Magistrate, we shall transcribe the following Letter from Paris, which pretends, and that, we are assured, upon no slight Grounds, not only to give their Secret, but the Ceremonies observed at the Reception of Members into it.

First of all, (*says the Letter Writer*) the Persons must be proposed in one of the Lodges by a Brother of the Society, as a good Subject, and

when the latter obtains his Request, the Recipientary is conducted by the Proposer, who becomes his God-Father, into one of the Chambers of the Lodge where there is no Light, and they ask him, *Whether he has a Calling to be received?* He answers Yes; after which they ask him his Name, Surname and Quality; take from him all Metals or Jewels which he may have about him, as Buckles, Buttons, Rings, Boxes, &c. his Right Knee is uncovered, he wears his Left Shoe as a Slipper, then they blindfold him and keep him in that Condition about an Hour, delivered up to his Reflections: After this the God-Father goes and knocks three Times at the Door of the Reception-Room in which the venerable Grand-Master of the Lodge is, who answers by three Knocks from within, and orders the Door to be opened; then the God Father says, *That a Gentleman, by Name _____ presents himself in order to be received:* (Note, that both on the Outside and within this Chamber, several Brothers stand with their Swords drawn, in order to keep off profane People.) The Grand-Master, who has about his Neck a blue Riband cut in a Triangle, says, *Ask him whether he has the Calling?* The God-Father puts him the Question, and the Recipientary having answered in the Affirmative, the Grand-Master orders him to be brought in; then they introduce him, and make him take three Turns in the Room, round a Sort of Writing on the Floor, in which they draw with a Pencil upon two Columns, a Sort of Representation of the Ruins of Solomon's Temple, on each Side of that Space they also make with the Pencil a great I and a great B, which they don't explain 'till after the Reception. In the Middle there are three lighted WaxCandles laid in a Triangle, upon which they throw Gunpowder and Rofin at the Novice's Arrival, in order to frighten him by the Effect of those Matters: The three Turns being made, the Recipientary is brought into the Middle of the Writing above-mentioned in three Pauses, over against the Grand-Master, who is at the upper End behind an Arm-Chair, on which is the Book of St. John's Gospel, and asks him, *Do you feel the Calling?* Upon his answering, Yes, the Grand-Master says, *Show him the Light, he has been long enough deprived of it.* In that Instant they take off the Cloth from before his Eyes, and all the Brothers standing in a Circle draw their Swords; they cause the Recipientary to advance in three Pauses up to a Stool which is at the Foot of the Arm Chair; the Brother Orator addresses him in these Terms, *You are going to embrace a respectable Order, which is more serious than you imagine; there is nothing in it against the Law, against Religion, against the State, against the King, nor against Manners.* The venerable Grand Master will tell you the rest: At the same time they make him kneel on the Stool with his right Knee, which is bare, and hold the left Foot in the Air; then the Grand Master says to him, *You promise never to trace, write, or reveal the Secrets of the Free-Masons or Free-Masonry, but to a Brother in the Lodge, and in the Grand Master's Presence?* Then they uncover his Breast to see if he is not a Woman, and put a Pair of Compasses on his left Pap, which he holds himself; he puts his right Hand on the Gospel, and pronounces his Oath in these Terms, *I consent that my Tongue may be pulled out, my Heart torn to Pieces, my Body burnt, and my Aches scattered; that there may be no more mention made of me amongst Mankind, if, &c.* after which he kisses the Book. Then the Grand Master makes him stand by him; they give him the Free Mason's Apron, which is a white Skin, a Pair of Men's Gloves for himself, and a Pair of Women's for the Person of that Sex for whom he has the most Esteem. They also explain to him the I and the B trac'd on the Floor, which are the Type of the Sign by which the Brothers know one another. The I signifies Jakkin, and the B Roaz. In the signs which the Free Masons make among one another they represent those two Words, by putting the right Hand to the left Side of the Chin, from whence they draw it back upon the same Line to the right Side; then they strike

the

the Skirt of their Coat, on the right Side also, stretch out their Hands to each other, laying the right Thumb upon the great Joint of his Comrade's fifth Finger, which is accompanied with the Word *Jakkin*; they strike their Breasts with the right Hand, and take each other by the Hand again, by reciprocally touching with the right Thumb the first and great Joint of the middle Finger, which is accompany'd with the Word *Boaz*. This Ceremony being perform'd and explained, the Recipientary is called Brother; after which they sit down, and, with the Grand Master's Leave, drink the new Brother's Health: Every Body has his Bottle. When they have a Mind to drink, they say *Give some Powder, viz. fill the Glass.* The Grand Master says, *Lay your Hands to your Firelocks;* then they drink the Brother's Health, and the Glass is carried in three different Motions to the Mouth; before they set it down on the Table they lay it to their left Pap, then to the right, and then forwards, and in three other Pauses they lay the Glass perpendicular upon the Table; clap their Hands three times, and cry three times *Vivat.* They observe to have three Wax Candles put in a Triangle on the Table. If they perceive, or suspect that some suspicious Person has introduced himself amongst them, they declare it, by saying, *It rains,* which signifies that they must say nothing. As some People might have discovered the Signs which denote the Terms *Jakkin* and *Boaz*; a Free Mason may be known by taking him by the Hand as above-mentioned, and pronouncing *I*, to which the other answers *A*; the first says *K*, the second replies *H*; the first ends with *I*, and the other with *N*, which makes *Jakkin*. It is the same in regard to *Boaz*. These two Words allude to the brazen Pillars which Solomon placed on each Side of the Porch of the Temple, one of which was called *Jakkin*, the other *Boaz*, according to 1 King. vii. Ver. 21.

C O U N T R Y N E W S.

Worcester, Jan. 12. Last Monday between the Hours of 7 and 8 at Night, was a most dreadful Tempest or Hurricane here, which blew down several Chimneys, untiled and shattered several Houses, blew down a Stack of Chimneys by the Guildhall, which beat down the Roof and Ceiling over the Crown Bar, to a very considerable Damage; it also did some small Damage to the Tops of the Towers of the two new-built Churches. In the Country adjacent it blew down several Chimneys, Barns and Outhouses, tore up Trees, particularly at Stoughton 4 Miles from this City, a Tree being broke in the Middle, the broken upper Part, of at least 600 lb. Weight, was blown 18 Yards distance from the lower standing Part thereof. At Emly, we hear a Barn and several Out-houses were blown down, and a Cow kill'd in one of them. And that the Thatch of several Houses round the Country being blown off, the poor Inhabitants live exposed to the Inclemency of the Weather.

Bristol, Jan. 14. We had last Monday, at the Close of the Evening, and a Continuance of it for some Hours in the Night, such a violent Storm of Wind, Hail and Rain, that the like has not been felt since the great November Storm in 1703. At the King's Watch-House at Pill, the Water never flowed so high since that Storm, till now, when it came within four or five Inches of the Mark then made in the said House; the Custom-House Boat which came from thence, and divers others, were in Danger of being lost on the Lee-Shore, being several times on it, but got off again. A Lighter laden with Faggots is sunk. The Hawkins, Capt. Cole, (who is sick on Shore) bound to the Cape de Verde Islands and Carolina, is drove on the Marsh in Gloucestershire, and it's doubtful whether she'll get off. The King David Brigantine, bound to Philadelphia, was drove from her Moorings (in the Hole) upon Cannons-Marsh, belonging to Mr. Clements, but got off the next Morning with much Difficulty. The Hobhouse, and the Queen Mary, were drove

on Shore in Sea-Mills; the former is got off. All the Low-Lands on Gloucestershire and Somersetshire sides have been overflowed, and abundance of Sheep, &c. washed off and drown'd, and large Quantities of Timber have been seen floating in the River. Toby Fox, one of the oldest Boatmen of the River, is drown'd, and his Body found. 'Tis feared many others have suffered the same Fate. The Water broke in over the Sea Banks in the Horwell-Meads with such Force, that several Garden Walls were thrown down, and other Damage done to that Neighbourhood. The Low-Lands in Barton-Regis have been so overflowed, that abundance of Sheep were drowned there. The Freshes too, occasioned by the Rain and Hail, joined with the Rapidity of the Tides, having done incredible Damage to this City, by the overflowing of those Streets, Cellars and Houses, near the Water, particularly on the Key, it carried off, as we are informed, upwards of forty Hogsheads of Oil, &c. belonging to several Merchants of this City, the Damage amounting to several hundred Pounds; also a large Number of Deals, Mahogany Plank, Pitch and Tar, &c. and did great Damage to the Tobacco and other Goods in the Ware-houses and Cellars. On the Back, divers Shopkeepers suffered also in their Cellars, to a very considerable Damage; and a Sugar-Baker near Counter-Slip received so much Damage in Sugars as amounts to 300 l. The Inhabitants on Temple-Bucks, Redcliff-Bucks, St. James's Back, and other Places near the River, also suffered much. The Water gushed so suddenly into the Three Mariners on the Key, that it immediately put out the Fire in the Kitchen.

It would be endless almost to relate the melancholy Accounts we receive from divers People; but the following may be depended on as coming from very good Hands. A publick House, called the Three Horseshoes, about a Mile from the New Passage, was carry'd away by the Torrent, with all the Household Goods, and Barrels of Liquor; but the People saved their Lives by a timely Escape. Mr. Richards at the New Passage House has lost a great many Sheep, and received much Damage in his Cellars and House. The Sea-Wall near the Farm called the Salt-House, about 200 Yards long, is broke down and destroyed, and it's computed will cost 4 or 500 l. to rebuild it. An Outhouse belonging to Philip Brawy, near the said Salt-House, was carried away with several Calves therein. The Widow Brown in Redwick, about a Mile distant, had 16 Barrels of Cyder staved in her House Stephen Hostler, a Farmer at Redwick, has lost upwards of 200 Sheep; and Jane Jayne of Chittens 60 Sheep. We have an Account from old Bury in the Marsh, that a Woman, four Children, and two Men Servants, were drowned in one House: That the Water came in with such Rapidity four Miles up the Lands from the Severn, that the People made several Alarms for Help successively: That a great Number of Sheep were drowned in that Parish; and the Damage done to the Sea-Walls 'tis thought will cost 1400 l. repairing.

At Thornbury one Ph. Beasy had the Misfortune to lose his Wife, five Children, and two Maids, by the Sea Banks being broke down, and the Floods breaking in: He saved himself by sitting upon the Ridge of his House till next Morning, when a Boat took him off.

S C O T L A N D.

Edinburgh, Jan. 10. This Morning the Corpse of the Right Hon. George Douglas Earl of Morton, was interred in the Gray Fryars Chuch-yard, in a handsome but private Manner: The Pall was supported by 12 Gentlemen of the Name of Douglas, who all appeared with white Linen Scarfs and Cambric Hatbands of the Manufacture of Scotland.

This early Instance of the generous and benevolent Disposition of the present James Earl of Morton, Son of so good a Father, and Representative of one of the first Branches of the Noble

and Illustrious Family of Douglas, gives us a hopeful Prospect of his Love and disinterested Zeal for the Good of his Country, and that he will exert himself to promote its true Interest and Advantage upon all proper Occasions.

P R E F E R R E M E N T S E C C L E S I A S T I C A L.

The Rev. Mr. Edward Pickering Rich is presented to the Rectory of Baginton, and Dovecote of Baunton.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Ganning is presented to the Sine-Cure Rectory of Gedney, in Lincolnshire.

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Whitlock is presented to the Rectory of Runington, Somersetshire.

The Rev. Mr. Matthew Scarborough is presented to the Living of Haddenham, in the Isle of Ely.

M A R R I A G E S.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, to Miss Mary Palmer, Daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer, of Wingham, in Kent, Bart.

The Hon. Mr. Arundell, Son to the Right Hon. the Lord Arundell of Wardour, and Count of the Sacred Roman Empire, to Miss Arundell Bealing.

George Somerville, Esq; of Chelmsford in Essex, to Miss Moore, of Audley-End in the same County.

Sir Robert Throckmorton, Bart. to Miss Collingwood.

The Hon. the Lord Forbes, eldest Son of the Right Hon. the Earl of Granard, to Miss Shepherd.

D E A T H S.

Jan. 12. Mr. Edmond Newland, Partner and Son-in-law to Sir George Champion, Knt. and Alderman.

Jan. 15. Sir Charles Hotham, Bart. Colonel of the First Troop of Horse-Grenadiers, Groom of the Bedchamber to his Majesty, and Member of Parliament for Beverley, in Yorkshire. Also, at his House at Wanstead, Essex. John Currier, Esq; an eminent Money-Scrivenet, in Broad-street. Also, at Cheneys, Bucks. William Kirk, Esq; formerly an eminent West-India Merchant of this City.

A few Days ago died, At Paris, John Breval, Esq; Author of several curious Volumes of Travels. Also, at his House at Chigwell, Essex, Mr. Henry Sperling, formerly an eminent Fur-Merchant. Also, at Rippon, Yorkshire. Thos. Dicks, Esq; formerly High-Sheriff of that County. Also, at Stow in Shropshire, in the 99th Year of his Age, John Pyfinedy, Esq; formerly one of the greatest Woolstaplers in that County. Also, the Rev. Mr. Wade, Rector of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Also, at his Seat at Thornton, in the North Riding of the County of York, John Hill, Esq; Also, at Sherborne in Dorsetshire, Hugh Barnwall, Esq; Also, in Ireland, Col. Richard Pyatt, Aid de Camp to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

P R I C E S o f S T O C K S Friday Noon.

Bank Stock, 139 18th. India 172. South Sea 101. Old Annuity 109 5 8ths. New Ditto, 109 5 8ths. Three per Cent. Annuity 106. Emperor's Loan 7 per Cent. 109 5 8ths. Ditto 5 per Cent. 98. Royal Assurance 110 3 4ths. London-Assurance 14 7 8ths. African 14. India Bonds 6 l. 12 s. Premium. South Sea Bonds 2 l. 5 s. Premium. New Bank Circulation 15 1/2 Premium.

B A N K R U P T S.

John Senior, of Kingston upon Thames, in the County of Surry, Maltster and Chapman. William Storer, late of Kidderminster, in the County of Worcester. Dyer.

Daniel Adecock, late of Gretton, in the County of Northampton. Chapman.

Edward Firth, now or late of Stafford, in the County of Stafford. Mercer and Jersey Comber.